

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF
COMMERCE**
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric
Administration**
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Northwest Region
7600 Sand Point Way N.E., Bldg. 1
Seattle, WA 98115

DEC 9 1999

Mr. J. William McDonald
Regional Administrator
Bureau of Reclamation
825 NE Multnomah Street, Suite 1110
Portland, OR 97232-2135


RE: Endangered Species Act Section 7 Consultation Bureau of Reclamation Operations and
Maintenance of its Projects in the Snake River Basin Above Lower Granite Dam: A
Supplement to the Biological Opinions Signed on March 2, 1995, and May 14, 1998
[Consultation Number F/NWR/1999/01636]

Dear Mr. McDonald:

Enclosed is the supplemental biological opinion prepared by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act on the operation and maintenance of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's projects in the upper Snake River basin pursuant to conformance with the proposed actions and reasonable and prudent alternative measures specified in the 1995 and 1998 Biological Opinions on the Federal Columbia River Power System. As stated in the biological opinion, NMFS has determined that the proposed action is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of endangered or threatened salmon and steelhead.

Also enclosed are our responses to comments received on the draft biological opinion on these same actions, issued in April 1999.

Sincerely,



William Stelle, Jr.
Regional Administrator

Enclosures